



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 2, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent week for Field Work: The weather was absolutely wonderful for Labor Day weekend, it was perfect for outdoor family activities. Last week's weather was also ideal for field work. Most fields are still very green from the previous week's rain. Twenty-three percent of the fall plowing has been completed. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, fall plowing, spreading lime and manure, rotating pastures, mowing pastures, preparing for fall seeding, repairing equipment, making hay, chopping corn for silage, and harvesting oats, potatoes, tobacco, apples, and peaches.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 2, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6	17	76	1

Crops: Eighty-seven percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is 3 points lower than this time last year and 5 points higher than the 5-year average. Fifty-six percent of the corn has now entered the dent stage. This is 9 percentage points lower than this time last year and 3 points higher than the 5-year average. Twenty-six percent of the corn crop has reached maturity. This is 17 percentage points higher than the previous week. It's also 9 and 11 points higher than the previous year and 5-year average respectively. Corn conditions show that 55 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Fifty percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Eleven percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 16 percentage points behind the 5-year average and 14 points behind this time last year. Fifty-four percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested. This is 26 percentage points higher than the previous year and 2 points lower than the 5-year average. Eighty-two percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 92 percent of the third cutting and 29 percent of the fourth cuttings of alfalfa have been completed. Eighty-three percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop looks very promising this season! Eighty-seven percent of the peaches have been harvested. This is right in line with the 5-year average and 13 points lower than this time last year. Thirty-seven percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is exactly where they were this time last year and 5 points higher than the 5-year average. Ninety-nine percent of the apples are in good or excellent condition.

Livestock: The rain that was received around the state has really improved both crop and pasture condition. Producers are hoping that the rain showers will continue into the upcoming week. Thirty-nine

percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 20%, poor 12%, fair 29%, good 36%, and excellent 3%.

U.S. as of August 26, 2007: Above average temperatures blanketed most of the Nation, except in the Pacific Northwest, northern Plains, and areas from the Mid-Atlantic Coast stretching northward into Maine. In the Southwest, Southeast, Tennessee Valley, and areas northward into the southern Corn Belt, temperatures were above normal by as much as 6-9 degrees Fahrenheit. Heavy rains fell from the central Great Plains eastward through the Corn Belt to the Mid-Atlantic Coast, adding significantly to soil moisture and causing lowland flooding. Scattered showers fell throughout the Southeast providing only minimal relief to the drought conditions. Elsewhere, in the western half of the country, conditions remained mostly dry.

Corn: Ninety-one percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 63 percent was at or beyond the dent stage, and 12 percent had matured. Corn reaching the dough stage was 8 points ahead of the 5-year average pace, while denting and corn already mature were 14 points and 3 points ahead of normal, respectively. During the week, corn steadily advanced with doughing in Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin more than 8 points ahead of normal. Nearly one-fifth or more of the crop in most of the Corn Belt, as well as in North Dakota and Pennsylvania, entered the dent stage during the week. The crop rapidly matured in the Tennessee Valley and North Carolina under hot, mostly dry conditions.

Soybeans: Pods were setting in 96 percent of the crop, 2 percent ahead of normal, while 6 percent of the average was dropping leaves, 1 point behind last year but 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. Pod setting was nearing completion in all States except Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, and North Carolina, where most of the week's activity occurred. Soybeans entered the leaf dropping stage rapidly across the Delta and in Tennessee during the week, with Tennessee's crop progressing more than a week ahead of the normal pace.

Small Grains: Eighty-nine percent of barley acreage had been harvested, 5 points ahead of last year and 18 points ahead of average. Harvest progressed well ahead of normal in all States except Washington, where harvest was only 3 points ahead of average. Oat harvest, at 98 percent complete, was winding down across the country with all States complete except Minnesota, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania, which were all nearly complete. Nationwide, oat harvest was ahead of the normal pace by 5 points.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 2, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 2, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	85	54	68	0	0.00	0	16.54	-2.02	48	2,327	243	3,707
Franklin	88	48	67	1	0.00	0	17.55	-3.61	61	2,202	239	3,604
Meadville	84	48	67	2	0.01	1	14.97	-6.04	62	2,232	433	3,621
Mercer	88	49	67	1	0.00	0	19.85	-0.15	59	2,168	226	3,562
Springboro	87	44	64	-5	0.02	1	17.15	-1.27	72	1,919	-149	3,282
Warren	88	47	67	2	0.00	0	20.35	-0.72	61	1,991	82	3,368
North Central												
Bradford Region	81	39	62	2	0.01	1	18.83	-2.30	69	1,559	156	2,882
Emporium	86	45	68	5	0.51	1	23.49	2.29	61	2,059	487	3,451
Kane	84	40	63	3	0.00	0	22.68	1.26	62	1,577	199	2,903
Laporte	83	45	65	-2	0.55	1	16.54	-2.93	65	1,879	-80	3,230
Lock Haven	89	49	69	3	0.44	1	13.34	-5.88	47	2,451	381	3,855
Port Allegany	85	43	65	3	0.00	0	17.66	-2.26	59	1,725	181	3,064
Renovo	88	49	69	3	0.00	0	18.54	-0.68	53	2,322	252	3,725
Ridgway	84	43	65	3	0.00	0	18.28	-2.92	66	1,794	222	3,158
Stevenson Dam	87	49	69	7	0.02	1	16.68	-4.52	54	2,152	580	3,541
Towanda	87	42	67	2	0.01	1	13.88	-2.26	60	2,046	71	3,403
Wellsboro	82	41	63	2	1.77	1	21.82	5.59	66	1,731	242	3,065
Williamsport	88	47	69	2	0.06	1	14.94	-4.06	52	2,621	339	4,049
Northeast												
Hawley	85	47	68	4	0.00	0	20.41	1.98	55	1,919	225	3,287
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	47	69	3	0.00	0	18.00	0.07	51	2,362	194	3,769
Susquehanna	85	44	67	5	0.00	0	21.21	1.48	60	2,001	384	3,367
West Central												
Butler	88	49	68	2	0.00	0	17.82	-2.29	57	2,206	175	3,606
New Castle	92	50	69	3	0.00	0	17.60	-0.59	55	2,405	373	3,816
Slippery Rock	90	48	68	4	0.00	0	20.41	0.85	58	2,314	480	3,720
Central												
Altoona/Blair	84	49	68	1	0.09	2	17.96	0.53	60	2,318	148	3,720
DuBois	83	48	67	3	0.01	1	18.36	-1.82	66	2,095	208	3,484
Lewistown	88	51	70	1	0.74	1	19.53	0.69	54	2,484	108	3,898
Middletown	86	56	73	2	0.00	0	18.19	-0.30	45	2,952	276	4,391
Prince Gallitzi	86	45	66	2	0.17	1	19.59	-2.84	53	1,969	223	3,344
Selinsgrove	88	48	69	2	0.02	1	14.35	-4.92	48	2,444	217	3,849
State College	84	52	69	3	0.01	1	15.95	-1.64	54	2,473	326	3,881
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	49	72	3	0.00	0	21.05	0.88	58	2,614	161	4,034
Lehighton	82	49	67	-2	0.00	0	23.84	3.83	61	2,313	-60	3,721
Matamoras	88	47	69	2	0.00	0	22.22	1.89	56	2,100	-49	3,492
Mt_Pocono	84	44	66	5	0.01	1	20.86	-0.64	68	1,922	433	3,282
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	88	54	71	4	0.00	0	19.30	0.63	58	2,710	534	4,138
Derry	85	52	69	3	0.22	1	28.91	9.49	56	2,259	204	3,659
Myersdale	85	46	67	-1	0.00	0	18.28	-2.88	60	1,789	-229	3,144
Mount Pleasant	85	48	68	3	0.00	0	23.16	1.07	59	2,232	397	3,643
Pittsburgh Intl	89	52	70	3	0.02	1	17.84	0.23	52	2,625	349	4,048
Connellsville	89	51	72	4	0.02	2	21.64	0.82	68	2,547	232	3,970
Waynesburg	88	50	70	3	0.00	0	19.64	0.28	59	2,371	260	3,787
South Central												
Biglerville	85	52	71	1	0.00	0	16.14	-1.11	47	2,725	112	4,157
Everett	84	48	68	0	0.00	0	18.07	1.07	59	1,995	-159	3,387
Hanover	85	51	70	0	0.00	0	15.45	-1.80	46	2,676	63	4,099
Harrisburg_AP	86	52	72	1	0.00	0	15.10	-3.39	40	2,864	181	4,306
South Mountain	82	48	67	-1	0.03	1	18.60	1.17	51	2,160	-3	3,554
York	85	50	70	-1	0.01	1	19.42	0.60	47	2,602	2	4,032
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	51	71	3	0.00	0	22.26	2.65	55	2,665	324	4,086
Hamburg	88	52	72	6	0.01	1	21.70	-0.98	53	2,728	578	4,155
West_Chester	87	49	71	0	0.00	0	23.93	2.72	47	2,607	17	4,024
Lancaster	85	51	71	2	0.00	0	20.89	1.02	44	2,681	208	4,110
Neshaminy Falls	87	51	71	2	0.00	0	27.93	5.12	54	2,502	56	3,909
New Holland	87	54	73	4	0.00	0	21.78	1.91	51	2,773	300	4,195
Philadelphia	87	60	75	3	0.00	0	22.17	2.74	45	3,144	320	4,596
Philadelphia NE	88	56	74	2	0.00	0	22.50	3.07	54	3,099	275	4,551
Reading	87	51	72	3	0.00	0	20.84	-0.27	54	2,817	384	4,249
Valley Forge Na	88	48	70	-2	0.00	0	22.90	2.52	59	2,654	-92	4,083
Willow Grove	86	53	72	3	0.00	0	21.90	-0.91	60	2,783	337	4,210

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had a pretty nice week of weather. Daytime temperatures were in the 80's and some days the humidity was higher than others. Nighttime temperatures were in the high 50's and low 60's. Some days were overcast but no rainfall was received. Things are a lot greener in the county since last weeks' rainfall, and crops and yards are growing again.

Corn silage has slowed a little since corn is a little higher in moisture since last week's rainfall. Some corn is looking a little better but we are still looking at a half a crop in the areas of the county where rainfall was received back in June/July. Other areas will vary anywhere up to 100% loss. Majority of the corn in the county has different heights within a field this will make determining losses a little challenging along with harvesting. Soybeans are doing better also since we received some rainfall last week. Double-cropped soybeans are now emerged since recent rainfall. Forage crops are coming back and will have another cutting which is definitely needed due to producers already feeding supplies that would normally be fed this winter. New seedings of alfalfa hay are being planted.

Apples are looking as good as expected so far. However, the size reduction could be 10-15% less than normal which will affect the prices and markets for the producers. The rainfall from last week will help to size some of the apples up for the year. The trees are stressed due to drought and may affect 2008 bud set which is occurring now. Early apples are being harvested and more varieties coming in each week. Peaches are looking pretty good with probably a 25% loss and smaller in size. Sugar content was higher due to drought. Sweet corn is dried up unless it was irrigated. Pumpkins some look good and size appears to be good but hot weather aborted blossoms. Other places pumpkins look really bad and will not yield anything. All depends where they are planted in the county and conditions.

Overall the county crops are hanging in there. The most loss still will be for corn in the county to this date. Soil moisture level is still short for the year and any rainfall will be appreciated.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Rainfall totaled in over 4.5 inches in August, most of it came in the last half of the month. This resulted in pastures and hay fields greening up and showing new growth. Soybeans are looking better. Some of the beans may still make a respectable crop. Corn silage harvest is underway now and production is reasonable, but the grain quality is less than optimal. Yields on the better fields being estimated at 80 to 100 bushels expected. With the moisture and of last week, fields were being prepared for fall seedings, spreading manure, and hay making.

Peach crop is now about over and yields have not been what was expected, but quality was excellent.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - It was a beautiful week to be in the field. Many farmers are beginning to harvest the early potatoes. Haylage was being cut and put in the silo and treated hay was being baled.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - This was a good week for field work. We got some spotty showers.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - This was a beautiful week for making hay. Farmers were mowing and baling all weekend.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - Corn crop appears to be ahead of last year as for maturity. Soybean pods are filling out. Many acres of fourth cutting alfalfa was cut and made for hay and haylage.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - A fair amount of oats has been planted in this area for fall harvest.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr - There's lots of bare ground due to crop harvest, and plantings. Farmers were really busy last week making hay, corn silage, planting alfalfa, and harvesting tobacco. We're expecting lots of small grain planting to make up for shortage of forage.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor - Very, very dry. We did not get any rain last week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - A few spots within the county received light showers earlier in the week. The alfalfa and timothy is growing and will make nice hay, if we get the weather to properly dry it. The pastures have greened up and are growing, providing good feed for the cattle and horses. The corn is filling very well, where there are any ears. Corn silage harvest is beginning to take place, with reduced yields. The main activities for the week were plowing, preparing for fall seeding, mowing pastures, and making corn silage.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - A drier week allow for the best hay-making period this month. A few fields are a little too wet and harvesting equipment is leaving a mark. Corn and soybeans continue to do well and many fields seem to be headed for early maturity. Still no corn silage harvest here yet.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 2, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	23	22	17
Corn, dough	87	90	82
Corn, dent	56	65	53
Corn, mature	26	17	15
Corn silage, harvested	24	31	25
Tobacco, harvested	54	28	52
Potatoes, harvested	11	25	27
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	92	89	79
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	29	19	26
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	83	87	78
Peaches, harvested	87	94	87
Apples, harvested	37	37	32

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 2, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	11	11	23	43	12
Soybeans	8	12	30	36	14
Quality of hay made	0	1	17	69	13
Pasture	20	12	29	36	3
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

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